

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the official action dated November 23, 2009. The claim amendments included herein are merely clarifying amendments and are not meant to change the intended scope of the claims. Thus, the amendments present the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal, and they should be entered in due course. Moreover, the amendments are manifest, requiring only a cursory review by the Examiner, thereby providing additional ground for their entry.

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. In the official action, claims 1-18 were rejected. In this Amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, and 16-18 were amended. Claims 1-18 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 1-18 are in condition for allowance and request withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1-5, 8-13, and 16-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sun et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0145602).

Claims 6, 7, 14, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sun in view of Niikawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,757,479).

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 1, 8, 9, and 16-18) are patentable over Sun and Niikawa (collectively "the cited references").

Applicants' invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed toward an information processing device. The claim recites "determining means for determining whether a file stored on the

device was created by the device or was obtained from a source external to the device," "classifying means for classifying the file," and "display control means for controlling a display unit to display a result of classification performed by the classifying means." The claim further recites that "the display control means displays a result of classification with a distinction between files created by the device and files obtained from a source external to the device." (Emphasis supplied.) Supporting disclosure for the emphasized recitation, and a discussion of its advantages, can be found in the specification at, for example, page 37, line 4 - page 39, line 24. Claims 8, 9, and 16-18 include similar recitations.

Neither of the cited references discloses the emphasized recitation. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the independent claims are patentable over the cited references - taken either individually or in combination - on at least this basis.

Further, since dependent claims inherit the limitations of their respective base claims, Applicants believe that dependent claims 2-7 and 10-15 are patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons discussed in connection with the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to telephone the undersigned at (908) 654-5000.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

Application No.: 10/551,733

Docket No.: SONYJP 3.3-371

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

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